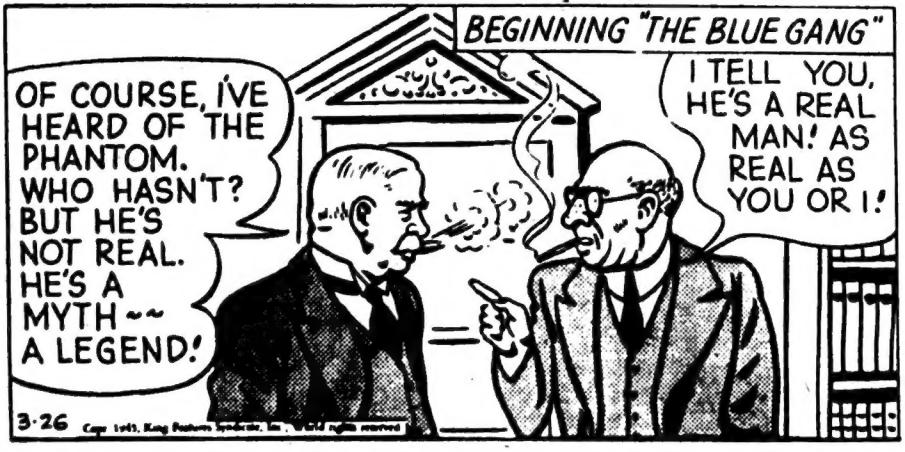
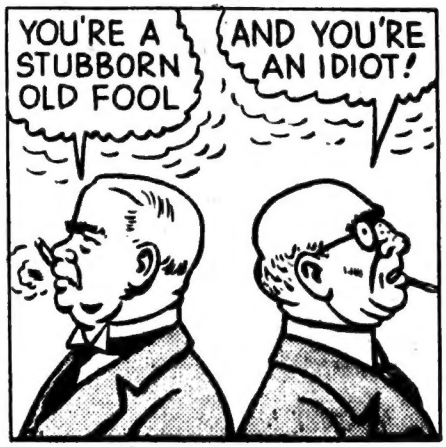

BEGINNING "THE BLUE GANG"
OF COURSE, I'VE HEARD OF THE PHANTOM. WHO HASN'T? BUT HE'S NOT REAL. HE'S A MYTH~~ A LEGEND!
I TELL YOU, HE'S A REAL MAN! AS REAL AS YOU OR I!
3-26


YOU'RE A STUBBORN OLD FOOL
AND YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

I'LL BET YOU A MILLION HE DOESN'T EXIST
THAT'S A BET!

THEN IT'S AGREED. IF YOU CANNOT PRODUCE THE PHANTOM~ IN THE FLESH~~ IN THREE MONTHS, YOU WILL GIVE A MILLION TO CHARITY.
RIGHT. AND IF I DO FIND HIM, YOU WILL GIVE A MILLION TO~ME.
3-27

TO YOU?
THEN I'LL TURN IT OVER TO MY CHARITY, OF COURSE.

THAT'S THAT. NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND THE PHANTOM, BUT WHERE DO I START~? THERE MUST BE A WOMAN~ A SWEETHEART~~

I'M CONVINCED THAT THE MASKED HERO OF THE OOLAN, WHO FOUGHT THE JAPS IN BENGALI A YEAR AGO, WAS THE PHANTOM!

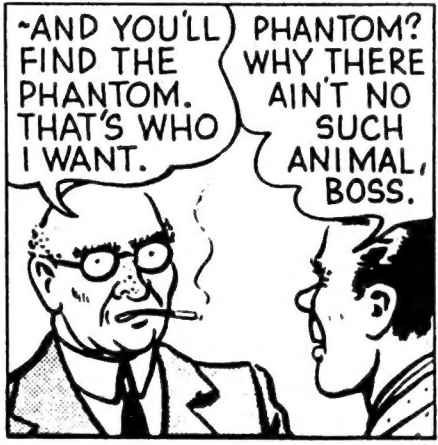
MASKED HERO OF OOLAN TO VISIT U.S.
HEROIC JUNGLE LEADER TO SEE SWEETHEART
DIANA PALMER

THAT WAS OVER A YEAR AGO. THE MASKED HERO DISAPPEARED, BUT I'M SURE HE SAW DIANA PALMER.
3-28

NOW, IF I CAN FIND HER, I'LL FIND HIM~ AND A MILLION DOLLARS~ FOR MY FAVORITE CHARITY~ WHICH IS ME.

TRIGGER, I WANT YOU TO FIND THIS GIRL, DIANA PALMER.
3-29

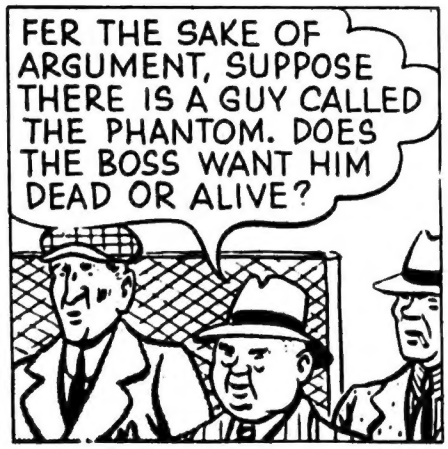
ISN'T KIDNAPPING OUT OF YOUR LINE, BOSS?
THIS ISN'T KIDNAPPING EXACTLY. FIND HER--


-AND YOU'LL FIND THE PHANTOM. THAT'S WHO I WANT.
PHANTOM? WHY THERE AIN'T NO SUCH ANIMAL, BOSS.

SOMEBODY ELSE SAID THAT, AND IT'S GOING TO COST HIM A MILLION! ON YOUR HORSE, TRIGGER.
YES, SIR.

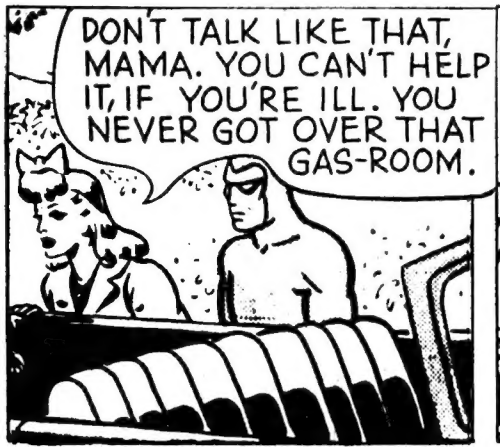
WE GOTTA NAB A DAME, SO WE CAN FIND A PHANTOM? THAT SOUNDS CRAZY, TRIGGER.

SURE, THERE AIN'T NO PHANTOM, BUT WE'RE KINDA HOT AROUND HERE, AND A VACATION WILL DO US GOOD. BESIDES, THE BOSS IS PAYING US PLENTY.
3-30


FER THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, SUPPOSE THERE IS A GUY CALLED THE PHANTOM. DOES THE BOSS WANT HIM DEAD OR ALIVE?

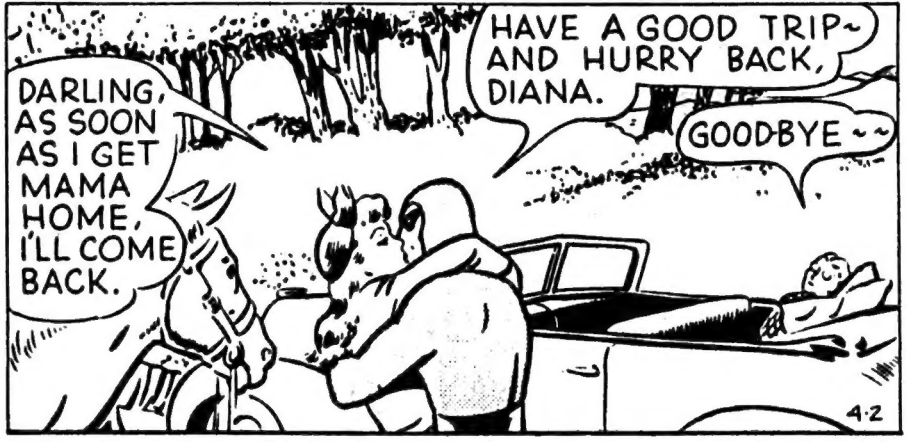
THE BOSS DIDN'T SAY.

I'M SORRY TO BE SUCH A NUISANCE, DIANA


DON'T TALK LIKE THAT, MAMA. YOU CAN'T HELP IT, IF YOU'RE ILL. YOU NEVER GOT OVER THAT GAS-ROOM.

WE HAVE RETURN TICKETS ON THE BOAT. I'D BETTER GET MAMA HOME, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
OF COURSE

SURE THIS PALMER DAME'S GOIN' ON THIS TUB?
YEP. HER AND HER MAW.
CONT'D


DARLING, AS SOON AS I GET MAMA HOME, I'LL COME BACK.
HAVE A GOOD TRIP~ AND HURRY BACK, DIANA.
GOODBYE ~~
4-2

HER?
HER.

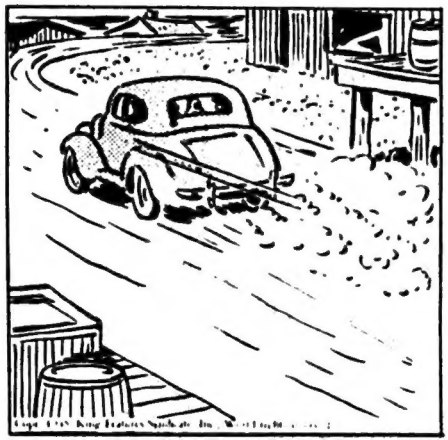
COMFY?
FINE. SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR, DEAR.
4-3

MAN WANTS TO SEE YOU ON THE DOCK, MISS PALMER. DIDN'T GIVE HIS NAME.

MUST BE HIM~ I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, MAMA
DON'T MISS THE BOAT, DIANA.

I'M DIANA PALMER, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU. I'M AFRAID YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE.

NO MISTAKE. PLEASE STEP IN.


TAXI

THERE SHE GOES, FELLAS. HURRY BACK, DIANA.
4-4

BUT I'VE SEARCHED EVERY-WHERE, MRS. PALMER
MY DAUGHTER MUST BE ON THIS SHIP!

MEANWHILE, AN OCEAN AWAY--
ADMIT YOU'RE WRONG-THAT THERE IS NO PHANTOM AND I'LL CALL OFF OUR WAGER.
MES-SAGE SIR.

We've got the girl. Now what?
Trigger
45

I'M NO WELSHER. OUR AGREEMENT STANDS.

IN A DESERTED MANSION ON THE COAST NEAR MORRISTOWN--

WILL YOU TELL ME WHO IS KEEPING ME PRISONER HERE-AND WHY?
I JUST WORK HERE, LADY.

NOW WHAT, TRIGGER?
BOSS SAYS WE SHOULD LET HER GET A MESSAGE OUT TO THE PHANTOM!

AN' WHEN THIS SPOOK WALKS THRU THE WALL TO RESCUE HER, WE GOTTA NAB HIM! WOW-I THINK THE BOSS IS GOIN' HAYWIRE!
4-6

GOT THE DEAL, FATSO?
WELL-I'M SUPPOSED TO LET HER BRIBE ME?

YEAH, ACT LIKE WE'RE MISTREATIN' YOU. IF SHE WANTS YOU TO SMUGGLE OUT A MESSAGE, THEN YOU AGREE, SEE?

BUT DIANA HAS PLANS OF HER OWN--
MISS PALMER-?

47

DIANA TRIES TO ESCAPE HER KIDNAPPERS ~~

HEY~~

NICE TRY, MISS. YOU ALMOST MADE IT.

WOW~ THAT WAS CLOSE! WATCH HER LIKE A HAWK. IF SHE GETS AWAY, THE BOSS'LL MURDER US!
4-9

I'M SORRY I HIT YOU, FATSO, BUT I HAD A RIGHT TO TRY TO ESCAPE!
SURE, YA DID!

YOU THINK SO?
YEAH. DEY TREAT ME LIKE A DOG. DEY DON'T PAY ME HARDLY NUTTIN'.

HMM~~ WHO ARE THESE MEN?
CAN'T TELL YOU NUTTIN'~ EXCEPT DEY'RE NO-GOOD SKIN~FLINTS.
4-10

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO DO ME A FAVOR~ AND MAKE SOME MONEY~~?
HOW MUCH?

MAIL THIS LETTER FOR ME~
I DONT KNOW~ I'M TAKIN' AN AWFUL CHANCE~

HERE'S FIFTY DOLLARS~~ ALL I HAVE. CAN I TRUST YOU?
I'LL DO IT! THEM GUYS NEVER DID NUTTIN' FOR ME!

HE'LL GET THE NOTE~ HE'LL HAVE ME OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME! WHAT LUCK!
4-11

IT WORKED! HERE'S THE LETTER SHE WRUT!
GOOD WORK, FATSO! LET'S SEE IT!

Darling, am held prisoner in an old house two miles from town called Cliffside house Three men here Careful Diana
HECK, IT'S JUST WRIT TO MR. WALKER.
EXPECT HER TO WRITE TO A PHANTOM? THAT'S JUST THE BOSS'S CRAZY IDEA.
BUT THIS WALKER'LL COME HERE WITH COPS, TRIGGER!
YEAH. WE'LL SEND HIM A DIFFERENT NOTE
"WITH FRIENDS AT CLIFFSIDE HOUSE, PLEASE HAVE TEA WITH US THURSDAY." HOW'S THAT?
4-12
GOT A LETTER FOR A MR. WALKER.
I'LL PUT IT IN HIS BOX.
WHO IS THIS WALKER?
NEVER SEEN HIM. THINK HE'S A PLANTER, BACK IN THE HILLS.
SEND A RADIO-GRAM, PLEASE, TO MR. WALKER, P.O. BOX 14, MORRISTOWN.
ANY INITIAL, MRS. PALMER?
NO INITIAL.-"DIANA NOT ON SHIP. AFRAID SHE WAS KIDNAPPED IN MORRIS-TOWN. I'M FRANTIC-AND HELPLESS. DEPEND ON YOU."
4-13
I BEEN WORKING IN THIS POST OFFICE TEN YEARS, AND NEVER SEEN THIS MISTER WALKER.
BUT THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL. LOT OF THEM PLANTERS IN THE HILLS NEVER GET TO TOWN.
HOW DOES HE GET HIS MAIL?
SOME KID PICKS IT UP NOW AND THEN-BY GEORGE-HERE HE COMES NOW!
ANY MAIL FOR MISTER WALKER?

HERE'S A LETTER FOR MISTER WALKER. AND HERE'S A CABLE FOR HIM, TOO. SAY, WHO IS THIS MISTER WALKER?

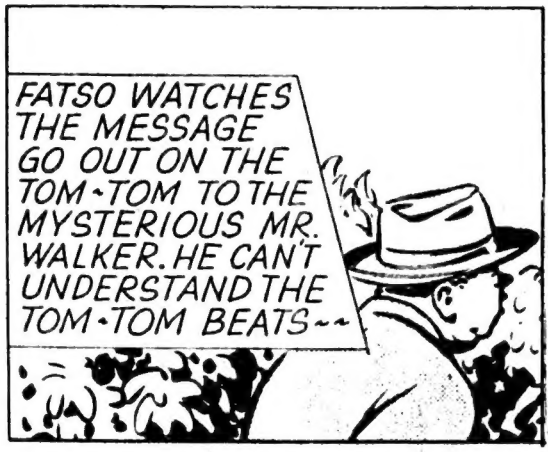
MISTER WALKER IS-- MISTER WALKER.
4-16

THINK I'LL FOLLA HIM, AND MAYBE GET A LINE ON THIS WALKER GUY.

LETTERS FOR-- MISTER WALKER.

HAVE TEA WITH ME ON THURSDAY--

!!?
4-17


FATSO WATCHES THE MESSAGE GO OUT ON THE TOM-TOM TO THE MYSTERIOUS MR. WALKER. HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE TOM-TOM BEATS--

AFRAID DIANA KIDNAPPED
4-18

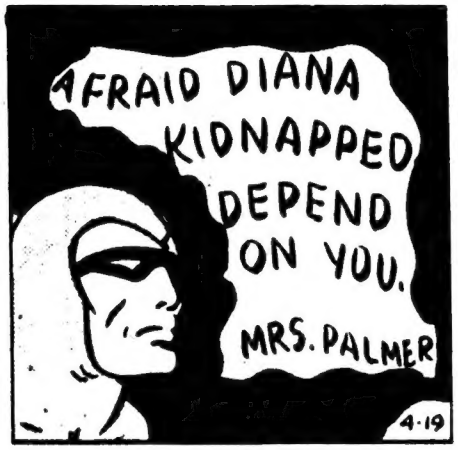
BUT FAR AWAY, HE CAN HEAR ANOTHER TOM-TOM PICK UP THE BEATS AND RELAY THEM ON--
PLEASE HAVE TEA WITH ME ON THURSDAY---

I'M GETTIN' OUTA HERE! THIS IS SPOOKY!

MESSAGE COMING IN ON TOM-TOM.
LET'S LISTEN.

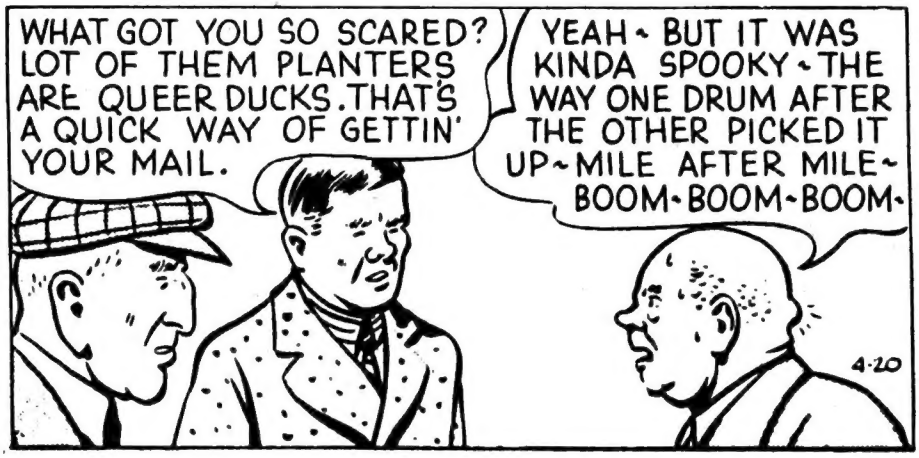
MISSED BOAT. VISITING FRIENDS AT CLIFFSIDE HOUSE. PLEASE HAVE TEA WITH ME THURSDAY. DIANA.

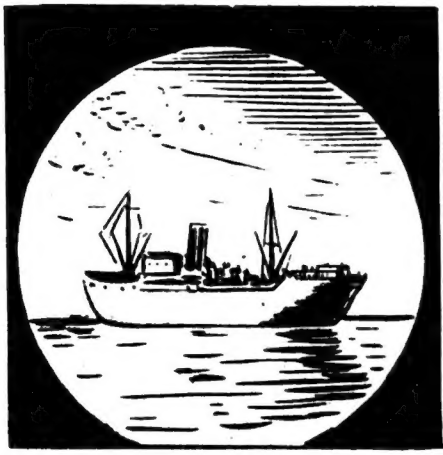
WHAT'S THAT? SHE GOT ON THE BOAT WITH HER MOTHER!
SH-H-- ANOTHER MESSAGE.


AFRAID DIANA KIDNAPPED DEPEND ON YOU.
MRS. PALMER
4-19

PUFF-- IT'S ME- FATSO- LEMME IN--

-AND THEN THIS KID GIVES THE LETTER TO THIS OTHER NATIVE, AND HE BEATS IT OUT ON THE DRUM.


WHAT GOT YOU SO SCARED? LOT OF THEM PLANTERS ARE QUEER DUCKS. THAT'S A QUICK WAY OF GETTIN' YOUR MAIL.
YEAH- BUT IT WAS KINDA SPOOKY- THE WAY ONE DRUM AFTER THE OTHER PICKED IT UP- MILE AFTER MILE- BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-
4-20

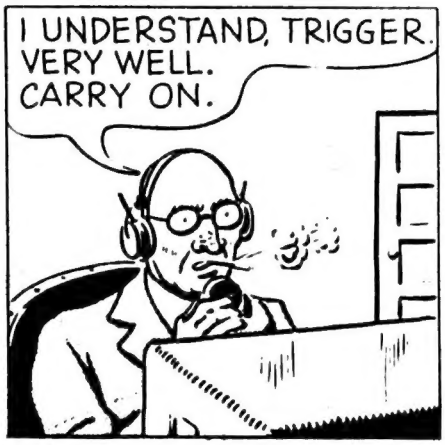


THAT'S OUR SHIP, ALRIGHT. BOSS AIN'T SPARED NO EXPENSE, HAS HE?
NOPE. GET THE GIRL ON IT.

WHEN HER PAL, MISTER WALKER, SHOWS UP FOR "TEA," HE WON'T FIND NOBODY HERE BUT US!
4-21

WHO KIDNAPPED DIANA? WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

~~AND DIANA SENT THE MESSAGE TO A GUY NAMED WALKER, A PLANTER, SO THERE AIN'T NO PHANTOM, BOSS.


I UNDERSTAND, TRIGGER. VERY WELL. CARRY ON.

NO PHANTOM. I WAS WRONG. WELL, I CAN'T LET A MILLION DOLLARS SLIP AWAY JUST BECAUSE OF THAT~~

ADMIT YOU WERE WRONG, CAL?
NONSENSE. PUT ON YOUR HAT. I'M TAKING YOU TO SEE THE PHANTOM~NOW!
4 23

WAIT AROUND UNTIL THIS WALKER SHOWS UP, FATSO, THEN ~~ TAKE CARE OF HIM~~ AND COME TO THE SHIP

NOW WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
WHAT YOU NEED'S A LITTLE SEA AIR.

AM I BEING HELD FOR RANSOM?
NOPE.

THEN~~ WHY~~?
WHAT YA DON'T KNOW WON'T HURT YA~~~
4 24

DIANA'S HELD PRISONER ON THE OLD FREIGHTER.
A PLANE~~
4 25

PURE NONSENSE, MAKING THIS LONG TRIP. NOW, WHERE IS THIS PHANTOM?

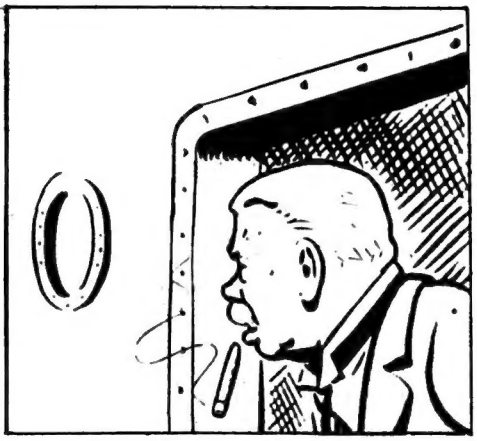
DON'T BE IMPATIENT, JOHN. THE PHANTOM'LL BE HERE SHORTLY.

BUT, BOSS, THERE AIN'T NO PHANTOM, LIKE I TOLD YOU
YES, I KNOW, TRIGGER.

YOU SEE, TRIGGER, I MADE ONE OF MY RARE MISTAKES. I WAS POSITIVE THE PHANTOM EXISTED. I WAS WRONG.

"JOHN, IN THERE, IS VERY WEALTHY. HE WAS TO GIVE ME A MILLION, IF I PRODUCED THE PHANTOM."
4 26

I STILL NEED THAT MILLION BADLY~~ SO I'VE DECIDED TO HOLD JOHN FOR RANSOM.~~FOR A MILLION DOLLARS.



I'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS SHIP~~ SOMEHOW~~
4 27

WHOA, JOHN~ DON'T GO HURTING YOUR~ SELF. YOU'RE OUR MEAL TICKET.

SO YOU'RE HOLDING ME FOR RANSOM~~! YOU--MY OLD FRIEND--

AND THIS PHANTOM BUSINESS WAS JUST A TRICK TO GET ME HERE!
NO, THAT WAS A MISTAKE, ONE OF MY RARE ONES.

GETTIN' DARK~~ THIS WALKER GUY OUGHT TO BE HERE SOON~~

HMM~~SOMEBODY COMIN' ON A HORSE THAT MUST BE HIM!

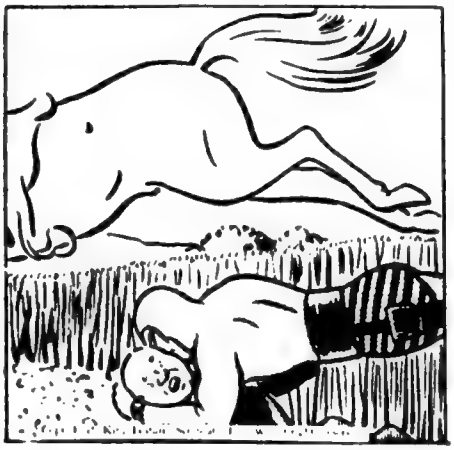
THAT MUST BE THE HOUSE~WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING DIANA
4 28

I'LL POP HIM OFF THAT NAG SO FAST HE WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!
CONT'D.

SOMEBODY'S BEHIND THAT HEDGE..
4-30

SURPRISED AT WHAT HE SEES, FATSO HESITATES~~
IS THIS~~ MR. WALKER~? WHAT KIND OF A GUY~~ WHAT'S HE WEARIN~?

AND HE WHO HESITATES~~ IS LOST~



I WANT A WORD WITH YOU, FAT.
GLUB~~

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, TRIGGER? LET'S SET SAIL.
WAITIN' FOR FATSO, BOSS. AS SOON AS HE TAKES CARE OF THAT MR. WALKER, WE'LL SHOVE OFF.
5-1

I'LL TALK.~~ ONLY DON'T GRAB ME~ AGAIN~~
TALK FAST!

WE'RE ~THE BLUE GANG ~ THEY GOT THE GIRL ON THAT SHIP~~
BLUE GANG! SMUGGLERS!
5-2

WE CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER, TRIGGER! COAST GUARD CUTTERS ARE THICK IN THESE WATERS!

I'LL GO SEE WHAT'S HOLDING UP FATSO. MAYBE HE NEEDS HELP.

GUESS WALKER HASN'T SHOWN UP YET, OR FATSO'D BE WAITING HERE FOR ME.

FATSO~ FATSO~!
5-3

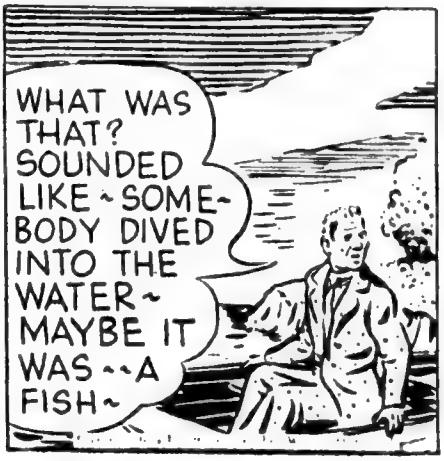
FATSO~

KNOCKED COLD! WHAT'S THAT ON HIS JAW--? A SKULL MARK--!

SKULL MARK~ PHANTOM--

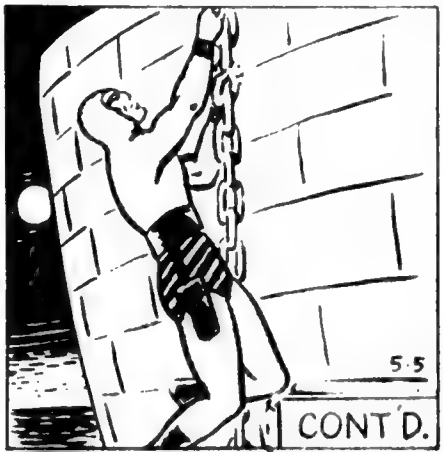
THERE IS A PHANTOM! HE'S ~HERE~ SOME-WHERE~

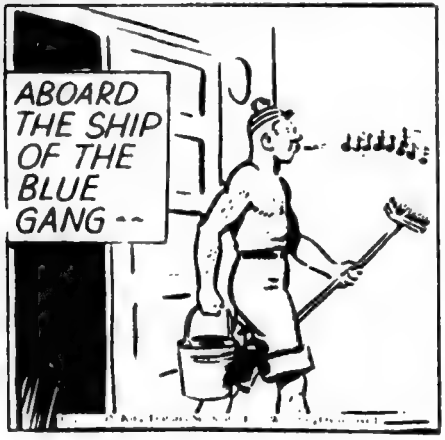
GOTTA GET BACK~TO SHIP--QUICK~HEY~ NO OARS!
5-4


WHAT WAS THAT? SOUNDED LIKE ~SOME-BODY DIVED INTO THE WATER~ MAYBE IT WAS--A FISH~

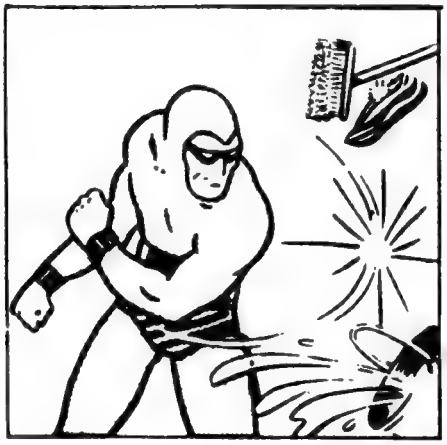
SO YOU'RE THE GIRL~ PRETTY--

NO USE FOR HER NOW. AS SOON AS WE PULL ANCHOR, DISPOSE OF HER.


5-5
CONT'D.


ABOARD THE SHIP OF THE BLUE GANG --

WHAT THE --



NOW -- TO FIND DIANA --
57

GOTTA GET TO THE SHIP QUICK -- TELL THE BOSS -- THERE IS A PHANTOM -

OF ALL THE WEIRD THINGS - KIDNAPPING ME FOR NO REASON -- BRINGING ME ON THIS SHIP --

GOING TO KILL ME -- THROW ME OVERBOARD AS SOON AS THEY PULL UP THE ANCHOR - WHAT'LL I DO --?
58

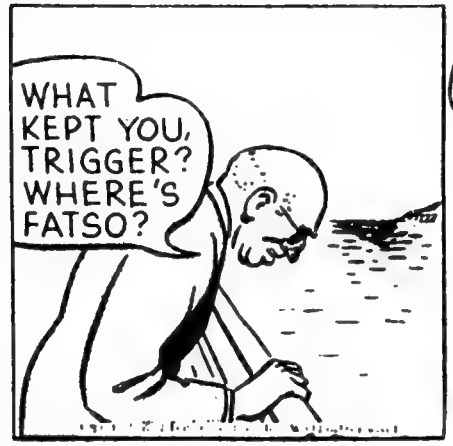
SOMEONE - AT THE DOOR -- THEY'RE -- COMING FOR ME --!

COMING FOR ME -- BROKE THE LOCK -- THEY'RE GOING TO - KILL ME --

DIANA!

OH -- DARLING! -- YOU FOUND ME - I THOUGHT IT WAS -- THEY --
59

BOSS -- BOSS --


WHAT KEPT YOU, TRIGGER? WHERE'S FATSO?

BOSS, IT'S TRUE -- FATSO'S UNCONSCIOUS - SKULL MARK ON JAW - - SKULL MARK!
5-10

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU WERE RIGHT - HE'S AFTER US!

WHO IS?
THE - PHANTOM!
TOMORROW - - THAT THING AGAIN.

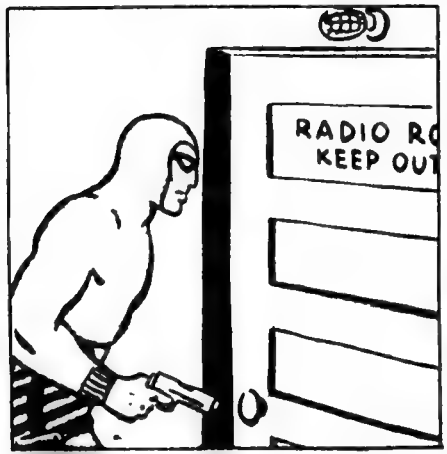
THEN - - THERE IS A PHANTOM, AFTER ALL!

THE GIRL! I'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HER - - IF I HAVE TO WRING IT OUT!
5-11

DOOR - - OPEN - -
SHE'S - - GONE - -

SKULL MARK! IS THAT - - ?
HIS SIGN! HE'S ON THIS SHIP!

WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
LATER - -


RADIO R
KEEP OUT

I WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE.
HUH?
5-12

WE'LL SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THIS SHIP! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
OM
OUT
CONT'D.

ALL RIGHT IN THERE?
OKAY.

SEND MEN TO SEARCH EVERY INCH OF THIS SHIP.
RIGHT, BOSS.

THAT WAS FINE, SPARKS. NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL TAKE OVER.
5-14

CALLING COAST GUARD CUTTER-- CALLING COAST GUARD CUTTER~~
MIGHTY 7 WASH LOAN

COAST GUARD CUTTER M-357. GO AHEAD.

BLUE GANG SHIP AT ROCKY POINT. SMUGGLERS ABOARD

SMUGGLERS?
YES. NICE COMPANY YOU KEEP.

BUT WHY DID THEY KIDNAP ME? I'M NOT SMUGGLEABLE.
WE'LL KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS SOON.
5-15

THE SEARCH FOR THE PHANTOM AND DIANA GOES ON--

YOU HIT~ AWFULLY HARD. DOESN'T IT EVER HURT YOUR HANDS?
THEY'VE HAD LOTS OF PRACTICE.

BOYS ARE COVERING THE SHIP. NO SIGN OF THEM YET. MAYBE THEY JUMPED OFF.

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THE PHANTOM LOOKS LIKE?
I DON'T WANNA FIND OUT.
5-16

THERE'S ANOTHER PRISONER ABOARD, A MAN. DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS. HE'S IN THE NEXT CABIN.
5-17
MY! IF I EVER FORGET MY KEY, I'LL CALL ON YOU!
WHO-- ARE YOU?
MEN CALL ME THE PHANTOM.
THEN-- IT'S TRUE! YOU ARE!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
SO YOU HAD A BET-- THAT I DIDN'T EXIST.
WELL, THE LOSER WOULD GIVE THE MONEY TO CHARITY.
5-18
WHAT DO KNOW ABOUT THE BOSS?
I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS. HE MOVES IN THE HIGHEST SOCIAL CIRCLES.
QUITE WEALTHY AND RESPECTABLE. KNOWN HIM FOR YEARS. WHEN HE SAID HE WAS HOLDING ME FOR RANSOM-- I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
YOUR SOCIETY FRIEND HAPPENS TO BE THE BOSS OF THE BLUE GANG, THE SLICKEST SMUGGLERS ON THIS COAST.
WE CAUGHT SOME OF THE BLUE GANG A FEW YEARS BACK, SMUGGLING DIAMONDS, BUT WE NEVER COULD FIND THE BRAIN!
ARE YOU CERTAIN CAL IS--
THE BOSS! ONE OF THE GANG, FATSO VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION.
5-19
OH--
SO THIS IS THE PHANTOM! IN THE FLESH!

THEN I WAS RIGHT, AS USUAL. YOU DO EXIST. YOU ARE THE PHANTOM!
AND YOU ARE THE BOSS OF THE BLUE GANG
CAL, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU--
MIGHTY 7 WAR LOAN

I AM FORCED TO KILL ALL OF YOU. I WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR THAT RANSOM, JOHN.

CHAIN THEM UP, AND HEAVE THEM ALL OVERBOARD, AT ONCE!

I REGRET THIS MORE THAN I CAN TELL YOU, JOHN, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU GO HOME AND SPREAD TALES ABOUT ME, CAN I?

YOU'LL BE PUNISHED-- SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY--

BOSS--A COAST GUARD CUTTER!
5-22

I'M GETTING AWAY FROM HERE-IN MY PLANE! FINISH THE JOB, TRIGGER! I MUSTN'T BE FOUND HERE!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, BOSS. YOU'RE NOT GONNA DITCH US HERE TO FACE THE MUSIC!

WHAT MUSIC? IT'S JUST A ROUTINE INSPECTION BY THE COAST GUARD CUTTER.
YEAH? SEZ YOU!

THOSE GUYS KNOW US-- WE DID THREE YEARS IN JAIL TO COVER YOU.
AN' THEY DON'T KNOW YOU-- BOSS-
5-23

AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO KNOW ME.
MIGHTY 7 WAR LOAN

WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT~~
RUN OUT ON US, WILL YA?

NEVER COULD RESIST A GOOD FIGHT~~
5-24

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
LOOKS LIKE A FIGHT!

WELL, TRIGGER AND SLIM ARE OLD "FRIENDS" OF OURS, BUT WHO IS THIS?
THE BOSS OF THE BLUE GANG, CAPTAIN.

IF I'D STUCK TO MY HUNCH THAT YOU REALLY EXISTED, I'D NEVER GOTTEN INTO THIS JAM!
5-25

BUT YOU THREW ME OFF WITH THAT TALK ABOUT A MISTER WALKER! BLAST YOU, TRIGGER!

TAKE IT EASY. YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO FIGHT IN THE BRIG!
MIGHTY 7 WAR LOAN

I'M SORRY YOU WERE PUT TO SO MUCH TROUBLE.
HMM~~ AFTER THIS, DON'T BET.

SO YOU SEE, DIANA, THEY KIDNAPPED YOU TO FIND ME.
OH, DEAR, I HOPE MAMA GOT HOME ALL RIGHT. I'LL WIRE HER AT ONCE!

LET ME HELP YOU ROW~~ OH-WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY OARS!
NEVER MIND. LET'S JUST DRIFT.

DRIFTING'S SO NICE~~
5-26